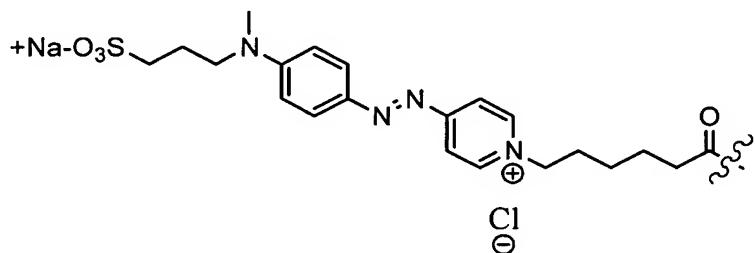


REMARKS

New Claim 58 has been added, drawn to the elected species. No new matter is believed to be added.

In response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement dated September 9, 2005, the Applicants elect Group II, claims 16-32, 52, 55 and new Claim 58, with traverse. In addition, the Applicants elect the “AZO” compound having the following formula as the single disclosed species for examination purposes:



AZO

Among Group II, Claims 16-32, 52, 55 and new Claim 58 read on the elected species. The election of species is made with traverse.

The restriction requirement is kindly traversed. The Examiner asserts that it would be burdensome to search all of the claims together. The Applicants kindly submit that many U.S. patents have issued in which many more than six groups of claims have been searched, and the Office can not reasonably posit that searching all the claims in this application would constitute an undue burden. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

The Applicants have provided the Office with an election of a single disclosed quencher for initial search purposes. The Applicants kindly remind the Office that a reasonable number of patentably distinct species may be claimed in a single application 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Accordingly, should the elected species be found allowable, the Examiner should expand his search to include the non-elected species.

With respect to the Examiner's inquiry regarding the chemical structure of biotinylated polyphenylene ethynylene found, e.g., on page 13 of the specification and also in the claims, the Applicants kindly submit that there is no confusion regarding the "1/4" and "3/4" subscripts in the structure. This is well-known polymer notation. In the repeat group "n" in the biotinylated polyphenylene ethynylene structure (2), there are two co-monomers. The co-monomers are set off by the pairs of vertical lines and denoted with the "1/4" and "3/4" subscripts. The "1/4" and "3/4" subscripts mean that there are four subunits in the "n" group, and they are present in a 1:3 ratio. In structure (2), the "n" group contains one of the "1/4" co-monomers and three of the "3/4" co-monomers.

This application is now believed to be in condition for examination on the merits, and an early indication of same is kindly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is kindly invited to contact the Applicants' below signed representative at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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